

initial administrative members will give up their positions later to physicians who will be elected as regional representatives (two from a district) in a set-up that contemplates about fifteen such districts, into which California will be divided.

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Incorporation Plans.—When the House of Delegates met in Los Angeles on December 17, its members were given copies of the tentative drafts of the medical and hospitalization service plan as prepared by the Special Committee, and approved by the Council. The House, in turn, through its own Reference Committees, again as Committee of the Whole, and acting also as the House, considered and passed upon the plans proposed and submitted, and also gave instructions to the Council to proceed with the organization of the new nonprofit corporation. Some delay, as might be expected, is always encountered when an application for incorporation, needing signatures of incorporators residing in different parts of the State, is prepared for submittal to the State authorities. However, once the incorporation is completed, its Board of Trustees can begin to function officially, and further development of the plan should then proceed in an active manner. It is not possible to state definitely the period of time necessary to accomplish these ends, especially for an enterprise of such wide scope, for which, while it is important that no time be wasted, it is likewise equally desirable that no undue haste, likely to contribute to error, be evidenced.

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Members of the First Board of Trustees.—The group of seven physicians who have been named for places on the first board of trustees of this California Physicians' Service include the following: Drs. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Stanford University; Lowell S. Goin, Los Angeles; T. Henshaw Kelly, San Francisco; C. Kelly Canelo, San Jose; W. Earl Mitchell, Berkeley; Samuel Ayres, Los Angeles; Alson R. Kilgore, San Francisco.

For additional information concerning these and other organization steps, readers are referred to the California Medical Association department in this issue, on page 132.

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Some Basic Purposes.—It is well for all California physicians to keep in mind that the proposed medical-service plan is designed to operate on a nonprofit basis, and that it is to be a voluntary organization, both as regards the doctors of medicine, namely, the "professional members," who register to give service, and as pertains to citizens of certain income brackets who, through periodic payments, choose to avail themselves of the professional services so offered—this latter group to be known as "beneficiary members." The plan, it is equally well to observe, does not contemplate any essential interference with medical practice as it now exists. On the contrary, special efforts are and will continue to be made to maintain the standards of medical practice and of scientific medicine, as they now obtain, and to promote their continued and legitimate development.

Not an Insurance Plan.—The California Physicians' Service is not an insurance or similar health plan. Rather, it is a method which aims to make it possible for citizens of certain income classes, through periodic payments, to secure for themselves the professional services of physicians of their own choosing, exactly as they make such choice today, through payments rendered to the California Physicians' Service instead of to the doctors of medicine who gave the services. The California Physicians' Service, in turn, will then pay the physicians on what is called the unit basis.

The schedule of charges—or so-called fee table—to be used as the basis for payments will probably be one that is in accord with the averages in vogue for services rendered in California, and certainly not lower; and the payments to the physicians who have rendered service in a particular month will be on the "unit basis." Thus, to illustrate, if a certain service is rated as being entitled for remuneration, say, to the amount of five dollars, and the unit selected should be one dollar per unit, then the physician who had rendered and submitted a statement for five dollars would be credited as eligible for repayment on the basis of five units. Whether the unit would measure up to 100 per cent (one hundred cents on the dollar) would depend upon the amount of money remaining in the fund after administrative and hospitalization services had been covered.

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Information Brochure in Preparation.—The foregoing statements are made in the OFFICIAL JOURNAL to acquaint the members of the California Medical Association, in a general way, with some of the basic provisions in the "California Physicians' Service." The Council, however, has instructed its Special Committee to prepare a brochure that will give more explicit information on many details in which all doctors of medicine in California have a very natural interest. The pamphlet so prepared will be placed in the mails as promptly as possible, and a copy will be sent to every Doctor of Medicine licensed in California. In the meantime, it is well to remember that the California Physicians' Service is an organization that has been brought into being through action, carefully considered, by the House of Delegates, the representative body of elected delegates in whom is vested the supreme authority to act for the members of the Association. That action having been taken, the responsibility for carrying the plan through to satisfactory end-results will be vested jointly in the officers of the new corporation and the members of the California Medical Association. With careful thinking and whole-hearted coöperation, the plan should soon be put into successful operation.

DEL MONTE ANNUAL SESSION

This Year's Programs Have Exceptional Lure.—In all years, the advice to attend the annual session of the California Medical Association may be properly given; but this year the suggestion comes with special force to members of the

Association. Not only for the valuable scientific and other programs, but because of the widespread interest in the Medical Service plans, soon to be put into operation in California, this coming gathering should have particular appeal. At a recent meeting of the Committee on Scientific Work, the reports of the secretaries of the twelve scientific sections indicated more than ever that the time necessary for attendance may be put to most profitable use.

Several joint sessions will be held with symposia on topics such as sulfanilamid, chronic alcoholism, and poliomyelitis. The guest speakers include: Dr. Chester Keefer, Harvard University; Dr. Stuart Harrington, Mayo Clinics; and Dr. U. V. Portmann, Cleveland Clinics.

The clinical pathological conference, to be conducted by Dr. Chester Keefer, in coöperation with California colleagues, will undoubtedly measure up to the excellent standard of previous years.

The first general meeting on Monday morning, May 1, will be given over to the addresses of President W. W. Roblee of Riverside and other speakers, who will present, among other things, progress reports on the Association's plans for a statewide, voluntary medical service.

The programs of the scientific sections, the scientific exhibits and the technical-commercial booths, as outlined in the tentative plans, should all be of interest and value.

In the scientific exhibit section, it is proposed to present an almost continuous series of films on medical and surgical work.

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Hotel Reservations Should Be Made.—Del Monte and the Monterey Peninsula are outstanding in possessing surroundings of never failing attraction to all who love the great out-of-doors or an environment of historical interest. Members who do not journey to Del Monte by automobile may use with equal convenience railroad transportation. A one and one-third round-trip rate will be secured for those who present travel certificate forms from county society secretaries, and, in due time, these will be forwarded. In the California Medical Association department* in this issue is given a list of the hotels, with rates, location, and other information. All members who contemplate attendance at the annual session, May 1-4, should promptly write for reservations. Why not lay plans now to attend the 1939 annual session?

PRESIDENT-ELECT CHARLES A. DUKES' VISITATIONS TO COUNTY SOCIETIES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Visitation Itineraries of President Roblee and President-Elect Dukes.—Commencing on Monday, January 16 and ending on Wednesday, January 25, President-Elect Charles A. Dukes of Oakland, with the Association Secretary and District Councilors C. L. Emmons, Carl A. Howson and Louis A. Packard visited the following so-

cieties: Orange, Pasadena, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Diego, Imperial, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. At each meeting there was a full attendance. In Los Angeles the large auditorium was filled, with overflow attendance in the dining rooms, where loudspeakers had been installed.

In November last, President W. W. Roblee covered most of the northern and central counties in California. Since, in recent years, it has become evident that the demands upon the time of the presiding officers of the State Association for visitation work are so great, a plan has been devised whereby, annually, the President-Elect will take for visitation the county societies in one portion of the State, and the President, in the succeeding year will visit the county units in the other part of California.

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Medical Service the Major Topic.—In President Roblee's tour in November the subject for discussion was "The Good of the Association," with emphasis on national and state trends in medical service. President-Elect Dukes, however, was called upon to speak on the plans for a special service recently formulated in California, and now being put into operation. At each meeting a full presentation of the plans was made, ending always with the request that questions be asked. The large attendance at the meetings and the numerous queries submitted are indications of the deep interest taken by members in the proposed "California Physicians' Service."

The California Medical Association is greatly indebted, therefore, to President W. W. Roblee and President-Elect Dukes for their more than generous donations of valuable time, and for the efficient services they have rendered to organized medicine in California in cordially meeting the members of the local societies and frankly and ably discussing with them some of the major problems now confronting the medical profession. Truly, officers of medical associations, in our present day, hold positions that no longer belong merely to the honorary class. An official position in a medical society, today, means work, and plenty of it!

POSTGRADUATE CLINICAL CONFERENCES

Clinical Conferences with Teams to Be Held in Northern, Central and Southern California. Component county medical societies will shortly be contacted concerning the holding of clinical conferences within their districts. The State Committee on Postgraduate Activities hopes to secure the coöperation everywhere of county society units for a series of spring and fall clinical conferences, designed respectively to carry the work to Northern, Central and Southern California. In each section it is planned to send out one or two teams, for several days at a time, each team covering a territory conveniently located. For this potential work the aid of faculty and nonfaculty teachers and demonstrators has been promised. Shortly, full information concerning these graduate con-

* See page 137.